



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHANUTE, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED ON METHAMPHETAMINE CHARGE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Edward Bridges, 25, Chanute, Kansas, was sentenced on August 25, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil to ten years and one month in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Bridges and co-defendant **Derek Benjamin Leon Riley, 33, Chanute, Kansas, entered guilty pleas on June 2, 2003, to one count of conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams (1.76 ounces) or more of methamphetamine.**

Melgren stated that Bridges and Riley admitted at their pleas that from November 2002 through March 2003, they conspired together to purchase ephedrine from an undercover KBI agent. Bridges and Riley admitted that on November 27, 2002, Bridges met with a KBI undercover agent and sold the agent approximately 2.72 grams (.09 ounce) of methamphetamine. Riley and Bridges further admitted that they inquired about purchasing pseudoephedrine/ephedrine pills from the undercover agent to be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Riley and Bridges admitted that on March 4, 2003, they purchased approximately 400 grams of ephedrine from the undercover agent for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine and inquired about obtaining more. The 400 grams of ephedrine purchased from the undercover agent could be used to manufacture more than 50 grams of methamphetamine. The ephedrine was recovered when Riley and Bridges were arrested.

Riley faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 22, 2003.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Chanute Police Department, Neosho County Sheriff's Office, Labette County Sheriff's Office and the KBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.